# HRYSLER DODGE [EEP www.libertydaytonchryslerdodgejeep.com





**Retiring Soon** 

77° Scattered Advanced Search

Home Obituaries

Sports Opinion Services Entertainment Sun@Edition Advertising Magazines Contact Us

Print 🔠 Font Size: 🗐 🕕

Home News

# Groups say Harvey shows urgency of waste pits removal

Comments

Share

5:58 am, Tue Sep 5, 2017. By Christopher James



San Jacinto Waste Pits Superfund Site

calling on the U.S. EPA to inspect the cap at the San Jacinto River Waste Pits Superfund site, make any temporary repairs, and them permanently remove waste as soon as possible.

In the aftermath of Harvey, environmental advocates are

Posted: Tuesday, September 5, 2017 12:00 am | Updated:

To discuss the call for the San Jacinto River Waste Pits' immediate inspection and removal, the Galveston Bay Foundation, Texas Health and Environmental Alliance and Coastal Conservation Association will hold a joint press conference today at 11 a.m. at the waste pits sites, 18001 East Freeway.

"The waste pits present an unacceptable health risk to our first responders and our entire region," said

Jacquelyn Young, executive director of the Texas Health and Environment Alliance. "At this point, we have no way of knowing what toxic chemicals are lurking in the floodwaters. For years our communities and local government have told the EPA it is not a matter of if, but when, a storm devastates the pits. We all need to work together to see this unacceptable risk removed from our waterways."

Filled to capacity with paper mill sludge, which contains mercury, PCBs, furans and cancer-causing dioxins, the waste pits were abandoned and have remained in the San Jacinto River since the mid-1960s.

Champion Paper used the site as a dumpsite and since abandoning them, the pits subsided and the dioxin-laden waste was exposed to the waters and sediments of the San Jacinto River.

The pits are now partially submerged in the river with temporary armored cap, made of a liner and rocks, to protect any contamination. But since the cap was installed in 2011, it has required many repairs and extensive maintenance without a 500-year flood event like Harvey hitting the area.

"This latest flood event reiterates our position that the dioxin wastes at the site, much of it located literally in the San Jacinto River in times of normal flows, should be fully removed as quickly as possible," said Scott Jones, director of advocacy for Galveston Bay Foundation. "A tidal river in a region known for hurricane strikes and prone to floods is not the location to attempt to contain toxic waste."







Submit Your News!



At this point, the condition of the cap and waste pits is unknown since Harvey hit.

"The dioxin in the pits has the potential to devastate the Galveston Bay recreational and commercial fishing industries, and the businesses that depend upon them," said Shane Bonnot, advocacy director for CCA-Texas. "That is a risk we can no longer take."

The EPA said it would have a dive team out as early as Monday to survey the cap underwater if conditions allow.

EPA and TCEQ technical experts took news crews to three Superfund sites Monday, one being the waste pits. Boats were on the water determining impacts at the temporary armored cap in the San Jacinto River.

Houston Mayor Sylvester Turner and city leaders were then briefed by EPA and TCEQ senior leadership on multiple issues, including the status of the Superfund sites in and around the Houston area.

The two agencies are also monitoring air and water quality data that will be analyzed by experts and released to the public as soon as possible.

To ensure the safety of residents and Galveston Bay, they will call for the EPA to make a final decision right now to ensure the waste is full removed before the next storm hits.

For more information about the site, visit <a href="https://www.epa.gov/tx/sjrwp">https://www.epa.gov/tx/sjrwp</a>.



#### Similar Stories

- Texas expects EPA to 'get on top of toxic water risk
- Industry donating for recovery efforts
- Baytown city services moving toward normal
- Harvey still affecting plants
- Baytown Chamber wants to know extent of damage

### **Most Read**

- Missing Baytown woman's car found
- · Family reports Baytown real estate missing
- Latest updates: Curfew enacted in Chambers County;
   GC schools closed all week; no shelters in Baytown
- Evacuations, rescues ongoing in Baytown
- Search continues for missing local woman

# Rules of Conduct

- Keep it Clean.
  Please avoid obscene, vulgar, lewd, racist or sexuallyoriented language. PLEASE
  TURN OFF YOUR CAPS
  LOCK.
- Don't Threaten.
  Threats of harming another person will not be tolerated.
- Be Truthful.

  Don't knowingly lie about anyone or anything.

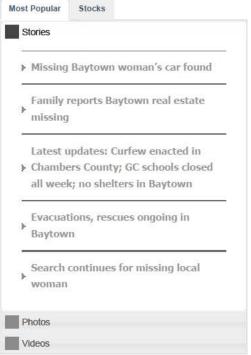
- Be Nice.

  No racism, sexism or any sort of -ism that is degrading to another person.
- Be Proactive.
  Use the 'Report' link on each comment to let us know of abusive posts.
- Share with Us.
  We'd love to hear eyewitness acounts, the history behind an article.



We're always interested in hearing about news in our community. Let us know what's going on!

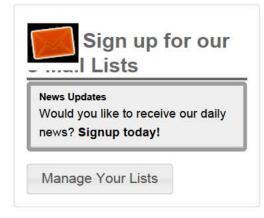
Submit news

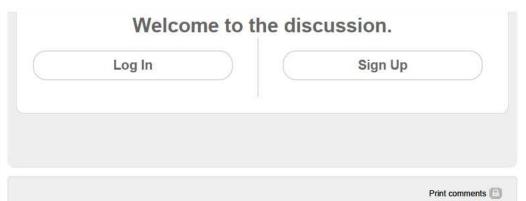


# Sun Weekly Survey

Which historic hurricane do you believe hit Baytown the hardest?

	View Results
0	Hurricane Carla, 1961
0	Hurricane Alicia, 1983
0	Hurricane Rita, 2005
0	Hurricane Ike, 2008
0	Hurricane Harvey, 2017









# Together we're better.



LEARN MORE

# Sections

- Home
- News - Sports
- Opinion
- Lifestyle
- Communities
- Obituaries
- Photos
- Videos
- Weather

# Services

- About Us
- Place An Ad
- · Home Delivery
- Subscription Services
- Submission Forms
- Site Index
- Add Search Toolbar
- Newsstand Locations

# Contact us

The Baytown Sun

Baytown Sun

Phone number: (281) 422-8302

Address: 1301 Memorial Drive

Baytown, TX 77520

# Search

	Search	
Search in:		
All News Sports Lifestyle	Communities Opinion Photo Galleries Video	

© Copyright 2017, BaytownSun.com, Baytown, TX | Terms of Use

southern newspapers